

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A suspension comprising:
 a metal material defining at least a portion of the
 suspension;
 an adhesive bonded to a portion of the metal material; and
 a composite material having a higher stiffness to weight
 ratio than the metal material and being bonded to the
 same adhesive layer that is bonded to the metal
 material , the adhesive layer being thinner than .00025
 cm.
2. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein
the metal material defines a load beam of the suspension and the
adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the load
beam.
3. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein
the metal material defines a base area of the suspension and the
adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the base
area.
4. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein
the metal material defines a spring area having a first bonding
area, the composite material defines a load beam having a second
bonding area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding
area and the second bonding area.
5. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein
the metal material defines a spring area having a first bonding
area, the composite material defines a base area having a second
bonding area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding
area and the second bonding area.

6. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.
7. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 6 wherein the composite material comprises a liquid crystal polymer.
8. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.
9. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.
10. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 9 wherein the metal matrix composite comprises aluminum with alumina fibers.
11. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.
12. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.
13. (Previously Presented) A suspension comprising:
 a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and
 a composite stiffener formed from a composite material and
 bonded directly to a portion of the suspension body by
 a single adhesive layer that is thinner than .00025 cm.
14. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

15. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

16. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.

17. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.

18. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.

19. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.

20. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.

21. (Previously Presented) A suspension comprising:
a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and
stiffener means formed of a composite material for
increasing the stiffness of selected areas of the
suspension and bonded directly to the suspension body
by a single adhesive layer that is thinner than .00025
cm.

22. (Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

23. (Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

24. (Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material having a higher stiffness to mass ratio than the layer of metal.

25. (Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a metal matrix.

26. (Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:
a metal material defining at least a portion of the suspension;
an adhesive bonded to a portion of the metal material; and
a composite material having a higher stiffness to weight ratio than the metal material and being bonded to the adhesive that is bonded to the metal material such that the adhesive does not absorb a measurable~~significant~~ amount of energy during bending of the suspension.

27. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 26 wherein the adhesive has a thickness of less than .00025 cm.

28. (Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:
a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and
a composite stiffener formed from a composite material and bonded directly to a portion of the suspension body by an adhesive layer having a thickness such that the adhesive layer does not measurably dampen motion of the suspension.

29. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 28 wherein the adhesive layer has a thickness of less than .00025 cm.